

February 14, 2023

RE: S.B. No 989 an act concerning Nursing Homes Direct Care Minimum Staffing

Dear Human Services and Aging Committee Members:

I am writing this testimony in reference to the proposed unfunded 4.1 direct hours per patient day bill that is before the committee (S.B. No 989). I cannot support this proposal as written, as there is neither the funding nor the labor resources available to meet the staffing mandate.

I have been a licensed nursing home administrator for 45 years and for the past 39 years, I have been an Administrator for National Healthcare. National Healthcare has 13 skilled nursing centers with over 2000 beds in CT. When I tell you the number one issue, I am facing daily it is staffing. At National, we have our own recruiting department; we also have HR staff in every center to support recruitment and retention. In addition, we have increased our wages substantially, provided wage increases every 6 months, and added a fully company paid retirement plan and we pay for tuition for new certified nursing assistants along with LPNs and RNs. Even with everything we are doing, we struggle to be able to recruit enough staff for my facility.

I fully support additional staff and resources to care for our residents, however, there needs to be the funding and a long-term plan to get additional resources into the LTC sector. To arbitrarily put a staffing mandate of 4.1 into effect we will struggle to be in compliance on a daily basis. We do not have the labor resources or the funding to meet this objective. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views and I am asking you not to support S.B. No 989 Minimum Staffing.

Sincerely,



Lewis Abramson
Administrator

